

Every year, the U.S. House of Representatives hosts the Congressional Art Competition, which recognizes the nation's most promising young artists. This year marks the 26th anniversary of the competition.

On Friday, May 4, I hosted a reception for the 29 10th Congressional District high school students who submitted artwork. From oil paintings to collages to photography, some of the area's best young artists were represented.

Several members of the North Shore Art League volunteered their time to judge the competition, and after much thought and consideration, they selected the top three pieces.

The winner was Siena Baldi, a senior at Libertyville High School, for a self portrait. The first runner up was Danielle Joy Wall from Hoffman Estates High School, and the second runner up was Maggie Wright from Loyola Academy.

Siena's painting will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year, along with the winners from each congressional district. Danielle and Maggie's pieces will be displayed in my Washington office. I also asked all the participants if they would display their pieces in my Northbrook office. As an amateur water-color painter, I try to decorate my offices with artwork from the district, so that everyone who visits can see the talent that our schools are encouraging.

Next year, we will again contact local high schools to request submissions for the competition. If you are someone you know is artistically inclined, I encourage you to contact my office for more information.